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# MINUTES

OF THE

## EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

# OXFORD BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

## YELLOWLEAF BAPTIST CHURCH,

LAFAYETTE CO., MISS.,

*October 5th, 6th and 7th, A. D. 1877.*

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OFFICERS:

ELD. R. G. HEWLETT, ..... Oxford. ..... MODERATOR.
D. J. BURGESS, ..... " ..... CLERK.
J. A. THORNTON ..... Elliott's Mills ..... TREASURER.

—o—

JACKSON, MISS:
CHARLES WINKLEY, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,
CAPITOL STREET,
1877.

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1877.

# ORDER OF BUSINESS.

**Adopted at the Eighth Annual Session.**

1. Call for Petitionary Letters.
2. Receive Corresponding Messengers.
3. Receive Reports of Messengers to Corresponding Bodies.
4. Appoint a Finance Committee.
5. Receive Report of Executive Board.
6. Appoint Executive Board.
7. Receive Reports of Standing Committees.
8. Receive Treasurer's Report.
9. Receive Report of Finance Committee.
10. Appoint Standing Committees.
11. Appoint the Place for the next Meeting of the Association.
12. Appoint a Brother to Preach the Introductory Sermon.
13. Miscellaneous Business and Resolutions.
14. Call and correct the Roll.
15. Adjourned.

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# MINUTES

OF

# OXFORD BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

## FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The OXFORD BAPTIST ASSOCIATION met in its eighth annual session, with the Baptist Church at Yellowleaf, on Friday the 5th day of October, 1877.

Eld. J. J. Sawyer, being absent, the Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. R. G. Hewlett. Text: St. John, 14th chapter, 1st verse.

After a recess of an hour the delegates re-assembled for business.

Owing to the death of the Moderator, the body was called to order by the Clerk, and, on motion, Eld. T. H. Smith was called to act as temporary Moderator.

A hymn was then sung and prayer offered.

The letters from the Churches were then read by Eld. Z. T. Leavell and Brother J. W. Higginbotham.

The Association then proceeded to a constitutional organization by the election of officers. Eld. W. W. Finley and Bro. Knight acting as tellers, which resulted as follows:

Eld. R. G. Hewlett, ..... Moderator.
D. J. Burgess,.....Clerk.
J. A. Thornton,.....Treasurer.

Appointed the Pastor and Deacons of the Yellowleaf Church together with C. Crosby and J. A. Thornton and W. H. Carothers as a committee on Devotional Exercises.

Elder T. H. Smith moved that the Order of Business governing this body at its last session be adopted. Carried.

Upon a call for Petitionary Letters. None presented.

Upon a call for Corresponding Messengers the following brethren were received:

*From Chickasaw Association*—Elds. H. L. Finley, W. W. Finley, Brethren D. A. McEachen, G. A. Logan, D. Couch, W. M. Cowan.

Eld Z. T. Leavell reported a very agreeable and profitable meeting of the Tippah Association.

The following brethren were appointed a Committee on Finance: Brethren S. P. Woodruff, W. J. Higginbotham, and J. R. Boneman, Jr.

The report of the Executive Board was called for, and, the report not being ready, further time was granted.

The following were appointed the

**Executive Board**

Antioch—A. T. Bobo.
Bethany—H. E. Draper.
Clear Creek—D. J. Burgess.
Concord—J. W. Higginbotham.
Courtland—J. Burnett.
Eureka—J. W. Lamb.
Good Hope—J. A. Thornton.
Mt. Gilead—A. R. Hill.
Bynum's Creek—R. Fowler.
Providence—W. K. Bryant.
Pope Station—J. R. Boneman.
South Oxford—R. M. Varner.
Yellowleaf—W. W. Knight.
Yocona—J. P. Moore.
Water Valley—C. Crosby, J. M. Shaw, H. W. Rockett, J. J. Higginbotham, Adam Fulmer, Jr.
Oxford—J. L. Johnson, Z. T. Leavell.

On motion of Eld. Z. T. Leavell the order of business was suspended in order that a committee on State Missions might be appointed.

Eld. Z. T. Leavell and S. P. Woodruff were appointed on said committee.

Further time was granted the Committee on Sabbath Schools, their report not being ready.

The report on Temperance was read by Eld. R. G. Hewlett, and, after a lively discussion, entered into by C. Crosby, Elds. R. G. Hewlett, H. L. Finley and W. W. Finley, the report was adopted. (See Appendix A.)

Moved, by Eld. T. H. Smith, to adjourn until 9 o'clock to-morrow. Carried.

Prayer by Eld. H. L. Finley.

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## SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

SATURDAY MORNING, October 6th.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by the Moderator. A hymn was sung, and prayer offered by Eld. W. K. Bryant.

The item of receiving reports of standing committees was passed, and the Moderator proceeded to appoint the following standing committees, to report at the next session of this body, viz:

*Ministerial Education*—Z. T. Leavell, J. H. Collins.
*Temperance*—A. J. Quinche, S. P. Woodruff.
*Education*—T. R. Williams, S. R. Lamb.
*Foreign Missions*—J. L. Johnson, S. D. Johns.
*Sabbath Schools*—H. W. Rockett, D. J. Burgess.
*Publications*—T. H. Smith, J. A. Thornton.

On motion of Eld. T. R. Williams, a committee was appointed to write on "The Evils of the use of Tobacco." Elds. J. W. Higginbotham and J. J. Sawyer were appointed on said committee; and, on further motion, the Moderator was added to the committee.

On motion of Eld. T. R. Williams the following committee

was appointed to select Scripture texts to be appended to our Articles of Faith, viz: R. G. Hewlett, T. R. Williams and D. J. Burgess.

Appointed the next meeting of the Association to be held with Good Hope Church, eight miles east of Batesville.

Eld. H. W. Rockett was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon.

Moved, by Bro. S. R. Lamb, that the Association meet on Friday before the second Sabbath in September. After some discussion, the motion was carried.

The Executive Board made its report through its Secretary, Bro. S. P. Woodruff, which was adopted without discussion. (See Appendix B.)

The report on Sabbath Schools was read by Eld. T. H. Smith, and, pending a motion to adopt, a discussion was entered into by Elds. W. W. Finley, T. H. Smith and R. G. Hewlett, after which the report was adopted. (Appendix C.)

On motion of S. P. Woodruff, the action of the Association in regard to the time of holding the next meeting was reconsidered. The motion was then amended by inserting Thursday before the first Sabbath in October. The motion was again amended by inserting Saturday instead of Thursday; and, pending the discussion, it was announced that the hour for preaching had arrived.

The Association then adjourned for preaching, Eld. Z. T. Leavell occupying the pulpit.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

A hymn was sung, and prayer offered by Eld. T. J. Walne.

Correspondence was again called for, and the following persons reported: Eld. F. Mize, from Calhoun Association; Eld. T. J. Walne, Secretary of the State Mission Board, and Eld. J. L. Johnson, President of said Board; Eld. E. Z. Simmons, representative of the Foreign Mission Board; Bro. N. M. Berry, messenger from Chickasaw Association.

On a further call for letters, Bro. E. T. Leigh presented one from the Courtland Church, which was read and the delegate's name enrolled.

The time of meeting was again taken up, and, after some discussion, the amendments were lost; and the motion as adopted in the morning was adopted as the time for holding the next session of the body.

The report on State Missions was read by Eld. Z. T. Leavell; and, on motion, was laid on the table, in order that the Committee on Publications might report.

The report on Publications was then read by Eld. J. L. Johnson, and discussed by Elds. J. L. Johnson, J. B. Gambrell and R. G. Hewlett, after which it was adopted. (Appendix D.)

On motion, the report on State Missions was taken from the table, and discussed by Elds. J. L. Johnson and T. J. Walne, and a collection amounting to $70 15 in cash, and a subscription on the various churches amounting to $275 was taken up. The churches subscribed as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Oxford | $100 00 |
| Mt. Gilead | 10 00 |
| Water Valley | 10 00 |
| E. G. Leigh (Eureka) | 10 00 |
| W. W. Jolly (Bynum's Creek) | 5 00 |
| Clear Creek | 75 00 |
| Pope's Station | 10 00 |
| Yocona | 25 00 |
| J. A. Thornton (Good Hope) | 10 00 |

The report was adopted. (Appendix E.)

The Report on Foreign Missions was read by Eld. H. W. Rockett, and by consent, it was decided that to-morrow should be devoted to Foreign Mission Work. The report was adopted without discussion. (Appendix F.)

The report on Education was read by Eld. J. B. Gambrell, which, after a short discussion, was adopted. (Appendix G.)

The Treasurer's report was read by Bro. J. A. Thornton, and adopted. (Appendix H.)

The report of the Finance Committee was read by Bro. J. R. Bozeman, and adopted. (Appendix I.)

By Eld. T. R. Williams:

*Resolved*, That any member of this Association be authorized to represent us in any body with which we correspond.

On motion, the following committee was appointed to draft suitable resolutions on the death of Eld. W. Dupuy, viz: Elds. J. L. Johnson and J. B. Gambrell.

On further motion, the resolutions were ordered to be published in the Minutes of the Association, and the Mississippi Baptist Record.

By Eld. H. W. Rockett:

*Resolved*, That the churches of this Association be requested to make an annual financial report to this body.

By Eld. H. W. Rockett:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to Yellowleaf Church, and the neighborhood in which it is located, for the hospitality received by the Association.

By Eld. Z. T. Leavell:

*Resolved*, That the funds in the possession of the Treasurer be distributed according to their several objects, and the Clerk have as many minutes printed as the funds for that purpose will pay for.

The roll was then called and corrected.

The Association adjourned to meet at 11 o'clock, A. M., on Friday before the second Lord's Day in September, A. D. 1878, with the Good Hope Church, eight miles east of Batesville.

R. G. HEWLETT, MODERATOR.

D. J. BURGESS, Clerk.

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# APPENDIX.

(APPENDIX A.)

**Report on Temperance.**

Temperance is defined:

1. Moderation; particularly, habitual moderation in regard to the indulgence of the natural appetites and passions; restrained or moderate indulgence.

2. Patience; calmness; sedateness; moderation of passion.

We learn from this definition:

1. That temperance is a very nice thing.

2. That it is something very much to be desired.

We learn from the Scripture in reference to it:

1. That temperance is the fruit of the spirit. Gal., 5:22, 23.

2. That it is a thing to be sought for and added to other Christian graces. Add to knowledge, temperance, etc. 2d Peter, 1:6.

3. That it is a proper subject of discourse for the Christian ministry, as Paul before Felix reasoned of righteousness, *temperance*, etc. Acts, 24:25.

4. Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. We do it to obtain an incorruptible crown. 1 Cor., 9:25.

Remarks:

1. Every church should require its members to be temperate in all things, especially in the matters of whiskey and tobacco.

2. The blessings of temperance are great in this world, but will be much greater in the next.

3. The evils of intemperance are great here, ruinously great; but will be immeasurably greater hereafter.

Respectfully submitted,

R. G. HEWLETT, Chairman.

(APPENDIX B.)

## Report of Executive Board.

We, the Executive Board of the Oxford Baptist Association, report that we held two meetings soon after the Association adjourned, and appointed a committee to make special effort to procure the services of some efficient brother to take the field, and report their progress. Said committee reported from time to time that they were unable to do anything. We think, brethren, that the cause of our failure was the want of means. We would, therefore, beg that the churches send up all their available missionary means to the first meeting of our new Board.

We would offer, further, the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That each church in our Association be requested to make a special effort to send up to the next Association, a sum at least equal to fifty-cents for every member of their churches, to be expended for Home Missions.

Respectfully submitted,

S. P. WOODRUFF, Secretary.

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(APPENDIX C.)

## Report on Sunday Schools.

Your committee to whom was referred the subject of Sunday Schools, submit the following:

It is needless for us to say that it is right for us to have Sabbath Schools. It is a thing already well established in the mind of almost every one, that the Sabbath School is one of the chief instruments for good of which we are in possession. It is only second to the preaching of the word. As a proof of this assertion, by looking over the minutes of our own Association, as well as those of others, we see that the churches that have Sabbath Schools are, almost without exception, in a better condition, spiritually, than those which have none. Generally speaking, they report more conversions; they have less church troubles, and give more of their means for the spread of the Gospel than those which have none. Furthermore, it is a well known fact that those members who are brought up in the Sabbath School are, as a general thing, better informed, and more zealous working Christians than those who have never had any connection with it. We would, therefore,

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recommend that our brethren and sisters get up Sabbath Schools all over the country—if there can only be a small number of children gathered together, and have a Sabbath School any how. If it is not possible to have a nice Sabbath School library, just take the Bible and ask God to bless it, remembering that it is the sword of the Spirit, and success is yours. Brethren, let us be earnest in this great work, remembering that the time is short.

Respectfully submitted,

T. H. SMITH, Chairman.

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(APPENDIX D.)

## Report on Publications.

Your Committee on Publications have to say that there are many denominational newspapers published in the country which our brethren would be profited by reading. The names of some of these might be mentioned as especially worthy of our patronage, but we have lately undertaken, in earnest, to set up house-keeping for ourselves in the paper business, as well as in other respects, and so with earnest emphasis we commend to the churches of this Association, to patronise the Mississippi Baptist Record, published at Clinton, in our own State, and edited by Rev. J. B. Gambrell, a member of this body.

Respectfully submitted,

J. L. JOHNSON, Chairman.

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(APPENDIX E.)

## Report on State Missions.

We, your Committee on State Missions, beg leave to report:

We believe that there is a growing enthusiasm among our people on the subject of destitution of gospel privileges in our State. Well may it be so. The spirit of missions is the spirit of christianity. As soon as we are converted we wish others converted. Then if we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good, we must sympathize with those out of Christ. Especially do we desire the conversion of those related to us by the ties of nature and association. There are many in our own State that not only know not Christ, but have no oppor-

tunity to hear of Him. The destitution in the bounds of our own Association is enough to stir our souls within us. Let us each one ask the Lord what He will have us do in this great work, and then follow His directions.

It is with sadness that we must state that owing to the illness of our Corresponding Secretary, that our Board is now in debt. Let us rally to its rescue and aid in this hour of need. The State Mission Board is now located in our bounds, and this makes it especially incumbent upon us to be active in this great work.

Respectfully submitted,
Z. T. LEAVELL, Chairman.

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(APPENDIX F.)

## Report on Foreign Missions.

Your Committee on Foreign Missions beg leave to report as follows:

The outlook of our work was never more flattering than now. In Italy, new fields of interest are opening up continually, and Dr. Taylor and the eight native evangelists are not sufficient for the work. One entire Province in Africa that has been so long closed to the Gospel is just now opened. From failing health, Bro. Dowd has been forced to leave his work for a while, and Bro. Colley and the three native preachers cannot do the work that ought to be done there. Our China missions are hopeful at all the stations there, and six newly-opened posts are calling loudly for God's people to occupy them for Jesus. The average increase of members to the church, in heathen lands, is above the average increase at home. We must furnish reinforcements to our three stations in China. Bro. Crawford, at Ting-Chan, is growing old and feeble; Bro. Yates, at Shanghai, has seen thirty-five years of missionary labor in China, and Bro. Graves, at Canton, is of age in China, having spent twenty-one years there. And if our work so hopefully begun is to be successfully carried out, we must furnish more help. Men and women are ready to go, but the hands of the Board are tied for want of means. Shall we help?

We recommend the Foreign Mission Journal to the patronage of the Association.

Respectfully submitted,
H. W. ROCKETT, Chairman.

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(APPENDIX G.)

## Report on Education.

To educate is to develop and strengthen our mind, heart and body. The great duty of each generation is to educate the rising generation, and prepare it for usefulness. We earnestly entreat our brethren to educate their children as best they can. Especially would we call the attention of this body to the importance of ministerial education. Our State Convention has a Board of Ministerial Education located at Clinton. This Board has in charge this department of Christian work for this State. It is the desire of this Board that no worthy young brother called of God to preach the gospel will be compelled to forego the advantage of an education for want of means. The Board of Ministerial Education desire to conduct the work without the expense of an agent. The churches are looked to for the necessary means. Help is needed now. We recommend Mississippi College as a college worthy of our patronage and earnest support. We also commend Blue Mountain Female College, and the Baptist Female College at Pontotoc.

Respectfully submitted,

J. B. GAMBRELL, Chairman.

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(APPENDIX H.)

## Treasurer's Report.

J. A. THORNTON, TREASURER,

*In account with Oxford Baptist Association.*

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| | |
|---|---|
| Received of Finance Committee | $40 45 |
| Foreign Missions | 11 10 |
| Total | $51 55 |

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|---|---|---|
| Paid D. J. Burgess, for Minutes | $40 45 | |
| Paid E. D. Miller, Foreign Missions | 11 10 | 51 55 |

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. THORNTON, Treasurer.

(APPENDIX I.)

**Report of Finance Committee.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Received for printing Minutes | $43 90 |
| Received for Foreign Missions, by Courtland | 3 00 |
| " " " by H. W. Middleton | 5 00 |
| Received for Mississippi College, by H. W. Middleton | 5 00 |
| Received by Association for State Missions | 14 65 |
| Total | $71 55 |

Respectfully submitted,

S. P. WOODRUFF,
J. R. BOZEMAN, JR.,
J. W. HIGGINBOTHAM,
Committee.

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# ORDAINED MINISTERS.

| | |
|---|---|
| R. G. Hewlett, | Oxford. |
| J. B. Gambrell, | " |
| J. L. Johnson, | " |
| Z. T. Leavell, | " |
| S. D. Johns, | Courtland. |
| H. W. Rockett, | Water Valley |
| H. W. Middleton, | Courtland. |
| W. Johnson | " |
| T. R. Williams, | Taylor's Depot. |
| T. H. Smith, | " " |
| J. J. Sawyer, | Harrison Station. |
| J. H. Collins. | Pope's " |

## LICENTIATES.

| | |
|---|---|
| G. C. Prichard, | Springport. |
| W. D. Mitchell, | Elliott's Mill. |
| I. N. Briggs, | " " |
| W. R. Briant, | Paris. |

# CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be called the OXFORD BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, which shall meet annually. The object of this union shall be to cultivate fraternal intercourse and love between the churches composing this body, and to unite their efforts in the great work of advancing the Redeemer's kingdom. In the prosecution of these objects, the dessemination of the Gospel by missionary operations, both at home and abroad, shall receive their encouragement, fostering care and support. It shall also be the aim of this Association to promote the cause of Sabbath Schools; also the interest of general education, and more especially the education of the ministry. All christian and charitable enterprises shall receive their encouragement, among which the support of superannuated and worn out ministers will receive especial attention.

ART. 2. Each church belonging to this Association shall be entitled to three representatives until the number of members reaches fifty, and one delegate for every additional fifty; *Provided*, In no case shall any church have more than five delegates.

ART. 3 The delegates present representing churches shall, during the session, present their letters of correspondence, which must state their appointment, together with the number of members in fellowship; the number baptized; received by letter; restored; dismissed by letter; excluded, and died during the year.

ART. 4. Any church of this Association failing to represent herself at one meeting, will be expected to state the reason thereof at the next meeting; and any church thus failing at two successive meetings, the Association may consider her dropped from her number, or may appoint a committee to inquire into the cause of such failure.

ART. 5. Other churches approving our Articles of Faith, and desiring to live and act in fellowship with us, may be admitted into this body by signifying their approval and desire by delegates and letters.

ART. 6. This Association shall have a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen by ballot at each annual meeting, as soon as the letters from the churches are read and the names of the delegates enrolled. A majority of the votes cast being necessary to an election.

ART. 7. Membership in this Association shall be essential to eligibility to any office within the body.

ART. 8. The same individual shall not be chosen Moderator more than three years in succession.

ART. 9. This Association shall have no power to adopt rules, or institute proceedings that shall infringe upon the independence or rights of churches; but it may, when requested by a church in its letter of correspondence, and not otherwise, give advice to such body, and it may separate from such churches as are known to walk disorderly.

ART. 10. This Association may correspond by letter and messenger with other representative bodies of the Baptist denomination.

ART. 11. This Association shall, at its annual meetings, appoint an Executive Board, composed of as many members as there shall be churches represented, with five additional members living in the same vicinity, any five of whom shall constitute a quorum. Each church shall have the privilege of nominating its own member of the Board. Said Board shall elect its own officers, and shall have power to transact the business of the Association, when the Association is not in session, and for this purpose shall meet as often as its Chairman shall deem necessary. An annual report of the proceedings of the Board shall be made to the Association.

ART. 12. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any regular meeting, by a majority of two-thirds of the members present; *Provided*, The proposition to change be made at a previous meeting.

# RULES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

ART. 2. The Moderator shall be considered judge of order, and shall have discretionary right to call to order at any time.

ART. 3. Any member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association the same day, but at no other time.

ART. 4. The Moderator shall have same privilege of speech as any other member of the body, provided he call some brother to the chair; but shall not be permitted to vote except in case of a tie.

ART. 5. Every motion made in order and seconded, after sufficient time for discussion, shall be by the Moderator put to the vote of the Association, a majority of whom shall govern, and the decision shall be publicly announced by the Moderator.

ART. 6. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator, and the Moderator, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person, or otherwise.

ART. 7. Every member in addressing the body must confine his remarks to the subject under discussion, and no member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection.

ART. 8. The appellation "Brother" shall be used in our addresses.

ART. 9. No member shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without leave from the Association, nor more than once until all have had an opportunity of speaking.

ART. 10. No member shall be at liberty to absent himself during the hours of business, without leave from the Moderator.

ART. 11. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a correct record of the proceedings of the Association, and submit

the same for the correction of the Association at the close of each session, and to preserve a file of all proceedings of the body.

ART. 12. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all moneys presented for Associational purposes, and pay them over by the order of the body.

ART. 13. In case of a motion to suspend any rule of the Association, a vote of two-thirds shall be necessary.

ART. 14. The roll of delegates shall be called at the close of each session, and absentees without permission, shall be designated upon the minutes as such, without leave from the Moderator.

# DECLARATION OF FAITH.

## I—OF THE SCRIPTURES.

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction, that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God shall judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true centre of christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Heb. 1:1, 2; 2 Pet. 1:24.

## II—OF THE TRUE GOD.

We believe that there is one, and only one living and true God, an infinite, intelligent spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct, but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

Deut., 6:4; Mark, 12:29; 1 Cor., 8:4; Gal., 3:20; Eph., 4:6; 1 Tim., 2:5; Jas., 2:19; Acts, 20:28; Rom., 9:5; Phil., 2:6; Mat., 1:23; John, 1:1.

### III—OF THE FALL OF MAN.

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression, fell from that holy and happy estate, in consequence of which, all mankind are now sinners, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God positively inclined to evil; and, therefore, under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

Gen., 2:16, 17; 3:6, 14, 20; Rom., 5:12, 19.

### IV—OF THE WAY OF SALVATION.

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediational offices of the Son of God, who, by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon himself our nature, yet without sin; honored the Divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having arisen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies, with Divine perfection. He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Saviour.

Isa., 5:3; Eph., 2:5, 8; 2 Tim., 1:9; Titus, 3.

### V—OF JUSTIFICATION.

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him, is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God, that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other spiritual blessing needful for time and for eternity.

Ps., 78:9; 121, 143; Rom., 3:20, 28; 5:19; 4:3, 9; Gal., 2:6, 16; 3:8, 11; John 5:24.

### VI—OF THE TRUENESS OF SALVATION.

We believe that the blessings of Salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity, and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation. Mark 16:15; John., 3:14, 16.

### VII—OF GRACE IN REGENERATION.

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit which we bring forth to the glory of God.
John, 3:3, 5. 2 Cor. 5:17.

### VIII—OF ELECTION.

We believe that election is God's act of choice, or gracious purpose, according to which he calls, regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that it is according to the fore-knowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ; and that God from the beginning, before the foundation of the world, chose His people in Christ, that they should be holy and without blame before him in love. Having predestinated them to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself according to the good pleasure of His will, that it comprehends all the means in connection with the end, and is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, thankfulness and trust in God; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; is the foundation of christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence; and that we can only ascertain this by the reception of, and obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Mat., 20:17; Rom., 8:30, 33; 9:10; Eph., 1:4, 5; 2 Thess., 2:13; 2 Tim. 1:9; 1 Pet., 1:2.

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### IX—OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS.

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God, through faith unto salvation.

John, 10:28, 29; Rom. 8:38, 39; Phil., 1:6; 1 Pet., 1:5, 9.

### X—OF THE HARMONY OF THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL.

We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen man to fulfil its precepts, arises entirely from a corrupt and depraved nature, to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

Gal. 3:17, 25; Rom., 10:4; Col., 2:17; Heb., 9:9, 12.

### XI—OF A GOSPEL CHURCH.

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only Scriptural officers are Bishops or Pastors, and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Scriptures.

Mark, 16:16; Acts, 2:38, 41: 8:12, 36, 38; 9:18; 10:47, 48; 16:15, 33: 18:8; 1 Tim., 3:1; Titus, 1:7.

### XII—OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER.

We believe that Chrislian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit; to show forth in solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in a buried and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life, and that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation, and to the Lord's Supper, in which members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examina-

tion. Mat., 3:6, 16; Mark, 1:5, 9; 16:16; John, 3:23; Acts, 8:12, 37; 18:8; Rom., 6:3, 4; Col., 2:12; Mat., 26:26, 28; Mark 14:22; Luke 22:19; 1 Cor., 11:25, 26.

### XIII—OF THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day or Christian Sabbath; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreation, by the devout observance of the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest that remains for the people of God. Acts, 20:6; 1 Cor., 16:12; Rev., 1:10.

### XIV—OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for and obeyed; except, only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the Kings of the earth. Rom., 13:1, 7; Titus, 3:1; 1 Pet., 2:13, 14.

### XV—OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED.

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sactified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem. While all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

### XVI—OF THE WORLD TO COME.

We believe the end of this world is approaching; that at the appointed time Christ will descend from Heaven, and raise the dead from the grave to a final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will then be adjudged to endless punishment and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

Mat., 26:31, 49; 2 Cor., 5:10.

# STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

| CHURCHES. | COUNTIES. | POST OFFICE. | NAMES OF DELEGATES. | PASTORS. | Days Meeting. | Baptized. | Rec'd by Letter. | Restored | Dis. by Letter. | Excluded. | Died. | Total. | For Minutes. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Antioch | Panola | Courtland | Not represented. Last year's statistics | S. D. Johns | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 68 | ..... |
| Bethany | Tallah'ch'e | Harrison | R. W. Draper | H. J. Smith | 4 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 56 | $5 00 |
| Bynum's Creek | Panola | Elliott's Mills | R. Fowler, W. W. Jolley | R. G. Hewlett | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | 10 | ... | ... | 32 | 2 50 |
| Clear Creek | Lafayette | Oxford | Eld. R. G. Hewlett, G. C. Prichard. D. J. Burgess. Z. A. McElroy | R. G. Hewlett | 2 & 4 | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 4 | 1 | 104 | 4 00 |
| Centre Hill | Panola | Batesville | Not represented. Statistics last year | T. H. Moore | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 | ..... |
| Concord | Lafayette | Taylor's Depot. | J. L. Mathis, J. W. Higginbotham | T. H. Smith | 3 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 34 | 2 00 |
| Courtland | Panola | Courtland | E. T. Leigh | H. B. Hayward | 4 | ... | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 24 | 2 00 |
| Eureka | " | Elliott's Mills | E. G. Leigh, S. P. Woodruff, J. W. Lamb | R. G. Hewlett | 3 | ... | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 33 | 3 00 |
| Good Hope | " | " " | J. A. Thornton | S. D. Johns | 4 | 11 | 3 | ... | 7 | 1 | ... | 103 | 5 50 |
| Mt. Gilead | Yalobusha. | Water Valley | J. W. Smith, T. L. Boydston | J. J. Sawyer | 4 | 1 | 3 | ... | 9 | 1 | 2 | 68 | 4 00 |
| Oxford | Lafayette | Oxford | Z. T. Leavell, M. W. Phillips,* W. H. Carothers* | Z. T. Leavell | ev'y | 1 | 8 | ... | 7 | ... | 2 | 98 | 2 25 |
| Providence | Calhoun | Banner | Eld. W. K. Briant | H. L. Johnson | 2 | ... | 2 | .. | 5 | 1 | 2 | 72 | 1 40 |
| Pope's Station | Panola | Pope's Station | Jeff. R. Bozeman, jr., E. D. Bozeman | J. H. Collins | 4 | 1 | .. | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 18 | 1 25 |
| South Oxford | Lafayette | Oxford | J. B. Jones, R. M. Varner | Martin Parker | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 29 | 1 50 |
| Water Valley | Yalobusha. | Water Valley | Eld. H. W. Rockett, C. Crosby | H. W. Rockett | ev'y | 6 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 95 | 4 00 |
| Yellowleaf | Lafayette | Oxford | A. Humphries, J. M. Gooch, John Wheeler* | T. H. Smith | 1 | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 65 | 3 00 |
| Yocona | " | Taylor's Depot. | Eld. T. H. Smith, Eld. T. R. Williams. W. A. Carothers | T. H. Smith | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 3 | 2 | 1 | 64 | 3 00 |
| | | | | Total | | 23 | 40 | 1 | 52 | 13 | 15 | 979 | $44 40 |

*Absent without leave.